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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy God, who alone knows what a day will bring forth, draw our lawmakers closer to what You desire them to think, say, and do. May they find such inspiration in sacred Scripture that they will know and understand Your will, strengthened by the power of Your word. Lord, guide them by the unfolding of Your providence, directing them around obstacles that hinder Your purposes. Provide them with friendships that will enable them to see You more clearly and to follow You more nearly each day. Give them the wisdom to strive for a true faith of good conscience and genuine love that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 18, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURRIS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be an hour of morning business. The majority will control the first 30 minutes; the Republicans will control the next 30 minutes.

The Senate will then resume consideration of the Wall Street reform legislation. There will be 30 minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to the Gregg amendment No. 4051 regarding State bailouts.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 for the weekly caucus meetings.

Last night, I filed cloture on the substitute to S. 3217, the Wall Street reform legislation. As a result, there is a 12 noon filing deadline for first-degree amendments. The first vote will occur before noon sometime today.

### CLEANING UP THE MESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the fundamental principle behind Wall Street reform that we are going to finish this week is accountability. Those who created the mess bear the responsibility for cleaning up the mess. One of its most important provisions promises taxpayers they will never again be asked to bail out big corporations that acted recklessly and put our economy at risk.

When it comes to the ongoing catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico, our moti-

vation is exactly the same. It is no different. More than 20 million gallons of oil have leaked into and across the waters of the gulf coast since the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded and sank about a month ago. That is double the oil that spewed from the Exxon Valdez.

Eleven crewmen died very quickly, horrific deaths, unnecessary deaths. In the weeks since, an enormous tourism industry has been slowed and business at countless fisheries has been halted at a time when the gulf coast can hardly afford more economic hardship. Our environment has been polluted and life has been disrupted for many along that coast. With every passing day, those consequences are only compounded.

It is the responsibility of Congress and the administration to investigate this disaster and it is the responsibility of BP and anyone else found culpable to foot the bill for the damages. They must be held accountable.

Some estimate this disaster will cost more than \$14 billion. We have to put our foot down and make clear that taxpayers will not pick up that tab. I will do everything in my power to make sure the polluters pay the price, which they are obligated to do morally and, I believe, legally.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be an hour of debate, equally divided, between the leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half.

The Senator from Washington.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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